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32. (Twice amended) An acicular body comprising at least one oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of Groups IB, IIA, IIB, IIIA, IIIB, IVA, IVB, VA, VB, VIA, VIB, VIIA, VIIIB, VIIIA, rare earth metals, and mixtures thereof; said acicular body having a polygonal cross section and a cross-sectional dimension greater than about 1 μm .

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are patentable and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection is requested. Allowance of claims at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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